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fabulous fabrics

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Unraveling 'unreality'



Gao Yu's style is tough to pin down. Like many artists born in the 1980s, he is heavily influenced by Japanese comics.

But beneath the bright colors lies a profound appreciation for ancient philosophy and a keen eye for social commentary – traits that have made him one of the most successful artists of his generation.

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Page 6 Tycoon backs theater festival

Vantone Property Group's Apple & Orange Play Festival is giving young playwrights a chance to bring their creations to life.



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Sany seeks justice from US

By Zhao Hongyi

US President Barack Obama and his Foreign Investment Committee may find themselves under legal assault by Sany Group, a leader in China's heavy industry.

At a press conference held last week in Beijing, Sany's chairman Liang Wengen swore to pursue legal action against Obama for abusing "national security" interests to put the kibosh on Sany's wind power project.

"We're looking for a final, open and just result for the discriminatory treatment," Liang said. "Sany is a totally private company and we have no intention of stealing military secrets."

Government intervention

The US government intervened in Sany's wind power project in Butter Creek, Oregon, earlier this year, first forcing Sany from the state before killing the project entirely.

Sany Wind Turbines was a new business under the Sany Group, which focused on developing hardware to harness wind, solar and other sustainable energy sources.

From its inception, Sany Wind Turbines has focused on exporting its wind power products operation services to foreign markets. It joined the US-based Ralls Corp, a subsidiary of Sany Group in the country, in 2010 to find potential business projects.

Ralls won the bids for four wind power projects in the state of Oregon earlier this year.

Shortly after work began, the Committee of Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS), an agency that reviews business transactions and investments from foreigners, locked down



A wind power project on the sea near Zhejiang Province

CPF Photos



Liang Wengen pledged to sue US President Obama for killing Sany's projects.

the project sites and barred all Chinese nationals from entering. US laborers were hired to confiscate and remove all the equipment. The reason is that the sites are too close to a shooting area controlled by the US Navy.

The decision cost Sany Group as much as \$20 million.

On September 28, Obama signed the documents to formally and permanently ban

the project.

But Sany's wind power project is flanked by another wind power plant – this one operated by a Danish company.

Home a hard place to grow

Sany Group was founded in 1988 in Changsha, Hunan Province to develop heavy industrial equipment. It produces super heavy cranes, mobile cranes, road building machines, excavators and pipe driving machines.

Rapid construction across China brought its rapid growth. In 2003, Sany Heavy Industry became listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange; Sany Heavy Machinery followed suit in Hong Kong years later.

Sany Group expanded its business to new fields such as port machinery and wind turbines.

Since 2007, wind power has seen tremendous growth in China thanks to government investment. Over the next five years, China's wind power capacity grew from 5.85 to 62.4

million kilowatts.

But a fierce competition is bringing decrease of profit.

Sinovel, the largest wind power developer and operator in China, posted huge losses during the third quarter of this year after years of growth.

"The wind power industry will enter a period of stagnation," said Han Junliang, chairman of Sinovel.

That explains why Sany Wind Turbines has been focused on world markets since its inception.

Widespread discrimination

Sany Group filed a lawsuit against Obama and CFIUS in the US District Court for the District of Columbia on October 1.

But many observers doubt Sany will receive a fair trial against the largest and most powerful government in the world – especially when the lawsuit is on its home turf.

"The federal government will have endless excuses for its actions, no matter how big

and determined the enterprise – especially when that enterprise is Chinese," said Yang Laixin, a graduate student at the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in Beijing.

Sany is not the only Chinese enterprise being crushed by the US government. Telecommunication giant Huawei and mobile phone maker ZTE have been victimized in the name of "national security."

On October 12, the US Congress Intelligence Committee issued a warning, advising US companies to refrain from having any business contacts with Huawei and ZTE, accusing them of stealing technology from US counterparts.

"It's understandable to see such a knee-jerk reaction from the US when it sees emerging foreign companies playing an increasing role in its country," said Sun Jiayi, a professor of international business from UIBE.

"Look at what the Japanese companies faced when they first entered the US market in the 1970s and 1980s. Time will resolve these disputes if our business is legitimate and proper."

Sany's most surprising ally in its case may be the Oregon public, which has pledged to defend its projects with Sany in the upcoming court debates, US media reported.

The district court will have a preliminary hearing on the case this Wednesday.

"If the district court refuses our case, we will keep chasing the issue all the way to the US Supreme Court," Liang said.

"We are confident that we'll win the case because we believe in the justice of the US legal system."

Young entrepreneurs meet to share dreams

By Chen Nan

Last Thursday, the Beijing Junior Chamber of Commerce gathered the city's young entrepreneurs to exchange ideas and strategies at Ocean Vanward Mansion.

To Build a Beautiful China and Enter in a New Journey, the meetup was held after the closing of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Hundreds of representatives from the Beijing Youth Chamber of Commerce and business community attended.

Ma Xiaolin, founder and

president of blshe.com, spoke about China's economic future and diplomatic relationships and how they would be affected by decisions made by the congress.

After his presentation, Lu Yunjuan and Wang Hongkun also spoke.

Deputy Secretary of the Communist Youth League's Beijing Municipal Party Committee Guo Wenjie attended the session to compliment the young entrepreneurs.

The day of the sessions was the day the year's supply of



Sponsors and guest leaders at the meeting

Beaujolais Nouveau, a French wine produced to be consumed during the same year, was released. The wine is

served by Air France on its flights to Beijing.

Guo Wenjie, Li Xiaobing, executive vice president of

Beijing Youth Daily, and Zheng Hong, vice-chairman of the Beijing Youth Chamber of Commerce, opened a bottle of the wine to toast the young entrepreneurs.

The event was hosted by the Beijing Junior Chamber of Commerce's 4th Professional Committee and the Beijing Youth Chamber's 30th, 31st, 32nd and 37th professional committees.

Sponsors included the Beijing Youth Daily, Qmoon.net and Beijing-Yujinzun Wine and Ocean Vanward Mansion.

Foundations adopt better strategies for fundraising

By Liu Xiaochen

China Foundation Center (CFC), an information service platform for foundations, held a salon on Tuesday about how to fundraise effectively in the 21st century.

Speakers included Dorit Lehrack, a CFC consultant who has fundraised more than 20 years for many international organizations, such as Friend of the Earth German, Greenpeace and Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung.

She talked about what fundraising in Germany entails, preconditions for a successful campaign and eight steps for achieving success.

She pointed out that fundraising was about more than collecting donations. It depends on establishing and maintaining human relationships that serve a common purpose. The key is to make people feel like they don't need to expect anything back for their time and money.

She said 90 percent of donations in Germany were from individuals, which is in stark contrast with the situation in China.

"I think that there are a lot of problems with China's foundations," she said. "There are a lot of good causes, including fighting poverty and helping people attain educations. But the legal situation needs to be improved so that foundations can grow."

Lehrack said no one can do it alone.

"Between foundations and NGOs without the character of foundations, there must be good relationships and cooper-



Dorit Lehrack gives a presentation on fundraising.

Photo provided by CFC

ation because foundations need NGOs to implement projects, and NGOs need foundations to give them support," she said.

"The two must also work closely with the government and business sectors, legal institutions and tax legislations to create a beneficial environment."

Liu Yongfeng, product manager of a public welfare platform Gongyi.weibo.com that has raised more than 10 million yuan in nine months, talked about how to use microblogs to fundraise.

He said making events transparent is important because it's crucial to have the public's trust.

"There were many popular fundraising opportunities after our weibo platform

opened," said Zhang Ruwei, who was in charge of activities. "Netizens were very enthusiastic."

CFC was launched by 35 Chinese foundations in 2010. As a third-party platform, it discloses information about organizations registered under the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

"Government departments, the public and related scholars can understand China's standard foundations they want to learn about through our data," said Zhang Ping, former director of communications at CFC. "At the same time, CFC also provides a platform for those foundations that want to show themselves. We usually recommend more transparent organizations to donors."

CFC began holding salons

last October. It cooperated with online platforms QQ, Ku6 and Sina Weibo to teach participants how to improve their organizations through New Media.

"We think our industry needs communication," Zhang said. "We are an online platform for the industry and we want to provide new knowledge and solutions."

Yuan Yuan, a salon organizer, said not enough people use the Internet to connect with others.

"We often deal with new concepts on the Internet so we can provide new ideas to them," she said. "Our salons are the 'in' practice."

"We have also invited professionals from other domestic organizations to speak," Zhang said. "Even if they have been

doing the projects for a very long time, they still want to get new ideas and discover popular and new ways of fundraising."

At least one participant agreed.

"We are newly established and lack experience," said Du Chang, who works at China Next Generation Education Foundation. "I've come to learn and have a look at how overseas organizations fundraise. We should make good use of new media as a tool for publicity."

"The idea behind this presentation is to bring people together to help each other," Lehrack said. "We could also talk about basic principles that are valid in each culture and that aren't very different between Germany, China or any other country."

International medical relief organization calls for better TB test

By Liu Xiaochen

A recent study has found that standard tuberculosis (TB) testing failed to detect the disease in children in 93 percent of cases.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the largest international independent medical relief non-profit organization, released this study at the 43rd annual Union World Conference on Lung Health in Kuala Lumpur on November 13.

The research was conducted by TB specialists, sampling 2,451 students in 13 MSF projects across six countries over the past three years.

MSF has been providing TB treatment for 25 years. In 2011, MSF supported treatment in 39 countries,



Photo provided by MSF

seeing 26,600 TB patients and giving half of them valuable treatment for drug-resistant TB.

Currently, the most common way of detecting TB is to rely on phlegm samples. But this method is less effective for children, since infec-

tions aren't easily detected through microscopy.

Collection methods are also difficult.

"When you're only detecting TB in 1 out of 10 children, you can be sure that many are falling through the cracks simply because they're not

being diagnosed, resulting in unnecessary deaths and the disease spreading to others," said Philipp Ducros, director of Manso Unit, a group of professionals who promote MSF's global projects. "Most revealing of this sad reality is that until just last month, there was little data on the global burden of pediatric TB."

Others have complained about testing methods.

"In an attempt to get adequate samples, health workers are forced to use invasive and painful measures, involving forcing vapor into their lungs to make them cough up sputum, or sucking out sputum from their stomach," said Martina Casenghi, scientific advisor

for MSF's Access Campaign. "We urgently need a TB test for kids that doesn't rely on sputum and can use samples that are easier to obtain, like blood, urine or stool."

Advisers are calling on the scientific community to develop better tests.

"What we need to see now is test developers showing that children are a priority, and that will mean developing tests that respond to their needs," said Grania Brigden, TB advisor for MSF's Access Campaign. "We need to move away from having to put children through excruciating procedures to get lab specimens that in the end don't provide us with a diagnosis."

The panda slays th

By Yu Shanshan

Like many in his generation, the 31-year-old artist Gao Yu expresses himself in a style inspired by Japanese co... individualism, history and modern society and betrays a deep love of ancient philosophy. And most importantly, i



Many artists born in the 1980s have focused on cartoons, but 31-year-old Gao Yu is undoubtedly the most successful.

Gao's rise to fame began in 2004, when his painting series *Under the Red Flag* sold at a Christie's auction in Hong Kong for nearly HK \$200,000. Two years later, his *Don't Understand and Can't Guess Clearly* sold at Sotheby's record-setting HK \$300,000.

Since then, Gao has been the darling of curators, luxury brands and art fans. One of his admirers from Taiwan attempts to purchase every one of his creations.

Today he is married to an independent designer, meaning his clothing is perpetually chic. He loves socializing and making friends, and constantly reaps their kindness.

At the opening of his fourth solo show, Gao arrived in a figure-flattering black coat, pants with gold dots, black and white Oxford shoes and black frame glasses toting a bottle of fine whiskey.

The venue was the new Galaxy Soho on East Second Ring Road, a spaceship-like construction by Zaha Hadid.

The center lobby of Building D is a white space



Gao Yu

filled with colorful paintings. Meters away, migrant workers hurry to put their final touches on the empty space.

Unique upbringing

Gao was born in Anlong county, Guizhou Province. His life in high school revolved around Chinese philosophy and Japanese comics.

After a history class that covered Laozi, he came to love classical Daoism, *qigong*, alchemy, the I-Ching and the Eight Diagrams.

At the same time, he dreamed of writing comics and sent samples of his work to magazines. All were rejected.

A few editors advised him to study formal painting, and after careful preparation Gao was admitted to the Sichuan Fine Art Institute to study oil painting.

He quickly grew bored with oil painting and bounced around, shifting his focus to sculpture, film, installations, performance and animation. But he always came back to Chinese culture.

That's when he found his signature: the evil panda.

The inspiration came from Cai Guoqiang's *Tigers with Arrows*, an artificial tiger with arrows piercing its body.

Many artists seeking to emulate Cai's success

made copycat works that mixed Chinese symbols with modern cruelty. Gao replaced the tiger with a panda — China's most overused symbol.

The intended message was that there's nothing wrong with drawing inspiration, but copying another's success would only kill an artist's own creativity.

"The panda had to die," he says.

Since then, the panda has been a key figure in Gao's narration.

Gao does not like pandas, which he sees as a creature too lazy and fragile to be a national icon. He has similar disdain for human icons such as Lai Ning, which he attempts to turn upside down and re-value in the context of Chinese legends and folktales.

His paintings are both vibrant and sinister — but still softer than the way artists in past generations expressed their political sentiments.

Interpreting change

The latest exhibition showcases Gao's works from the last two years.

Despite sharing a theme of "Unreality," the works are very much about the reality of present China. The eye-catching, decorative colors and figures, presented with verses by Gao, invite people to search for the serious meaning behind each.

Napoleon Bonaparte once called China a sleeping lion, saying, "Let her sleep, for when she wakes she will shake the world."

In *Drunk Lion*, three lions that represent China at different historical stages are painted on a black parlor

screen. The lion about getting... lion in the m... briated beas... right one re... where all it v...

The fable... to instill per... swindle peop...

In *Move*... with a satiric... long as you... will come to... this and rep...

Three V... works. The... speak no ev... seeing the c...

"People... hear or spe... printing is... mirroring t... and history...

Slay the... is based on... ing society... ing up to ki...

"The soc... and there is... I'm afraid t... which socie...

the dragon

comics. His art offers biting commentary on
t has made him rich.



left one represents China in 1978, excited
g to drink the wine of "prosperity"; the big
middle represents modern China, an in-
st that feels it can achieve anything; the
represents the hangover of the next day,
wants to do is go back to sleep.

of Yugong moving the mountain is taught
perseverance: Gao sees it as a trick used to
ple into back-breaking labor.

the *Mountain*, he pairs fairytale paintings
cal poem. "They want us to believe that as
work as hard as a slave, some immortals
save you. But why should we believe in
eat our hardship?" he says.

Wise Monkeys is the darkest of Gao's
monkeys see no evil, hear no evil and
il, which Gao says prevents them from
rueful realities of modern society.

are fragile, and they choose not to see,
ak many things." The ink used in its
formulated to corrode the iron plate,
he effects of cruel events on memory

Dragon is the show's centerpiece, and
a decade of reflection on China's chang-
Small, rioting pandas are shown gang-
all a great dragon.

society is full of ruthless, greedy people,
s no peaceful route to reform in place.
he conflict will reach an extreme, after
ty will spin out of control and bring ruin

to us all," he says.

Make a brand

Born at a time when old ideology was giving way
to materialism, Gao's generation is torn between a
need to keep its distance from darkness of the
world and a desire to seek its fortune.

"Unreality," or *buxianshi* in Chinese, is a word in
frequent use among young adults to refer to harm-
ful powers that ruin the dreams and independence
of young adults.

But Gao decided to change unreal, surreal things
into reality. "I cannot turn back from this problem-
atic world. If you do, you lose. I want to face it,
understand it, and win," Gao says.

He is among the few young artists able to express
his artistic vision with such precision.

In a dialogue recorded in the exhibition bro-
chure, Gao speaks with Changchang, a columnist,
about his life, thoughts and history, and introduces
the meanings behind each of his works.

While Japanese comics and cartoons are a major
subculture in the US and Japan, Gao says they
are merely a storytelling medium in China. He has
abandoned his dream of opening a comic publish-
ing house since print is a dying medium.

Instead, "time calls for me to incubate new artists,
share my business methods and teach them tech-
niques." The first step in this new adventure may be
the design company Gao recently registered.

Unreality will go remain on exhibition at Galaxy
Soho through Tuesday.



Main: Slay the Dragon,
453×180cm, Acrylic on canvas
mounted on aluminum, 2012

Top: Three Wise Monkeys: See
No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No
Evil, Diameter 120cm, Print ink
on corroded iron plate, 2012

Middle: Move the Mountain,
285×150cm, Acrylic on canvas
mounted on aluminum, 2012

Below: Drunk Lion: Triptych
Screen Print (front), 200×120cm,
Acrylic on canvas mounted on
aluminum, 2012





Local drama festival aims to help small theaters

Can the support of property tycoon make small theater thrive?

By Chen Nan

An independent theater festival called Apple and Orange Play Festival, co-organized by Vantone Property Group, began November 1 in Trojan House, an independent art theater in Beijing. The festival aims to bring theater to the masses while giving young artists a chance to bring their creations to life.

At the opening ceremony, a chat between real estate developer Feng Lun and popular drama actor Pu Cunxin drew enthusiastic applause. They talked about dreams and shared opinions about the festival.

"This year's festival not only gives young dramatists and actors a stage to express themselves, but also provides audiences a window into drama," Pu said.

Eight plays will be performed,

including *Thunderstorm 2.0*, *Sensory Journey* and *Dense Fog*. It will be staged in three cities: Beijing, Tianjin and Hangzhou.

This year's festival – the fourth time it's been held – will run until December 15. People will also meet to discuss topics such as how to incorporate multimedia elements into plays, how to use fog machines and set up unexpected plot twists.

Located near Today Art Museum in Pingod Residential Community, Trojan House has the special distinction of being near both an art district and a bustling part of the city.

It's just as Su wanted it.

She said the theater is supposed to attract the young and elderly, artists and businessmen.

As part of the Apple and Orange Play Festival, Trojan House's owners hope that young producers, directors



the last festival aimed to explore how the narrowed space affects people's psychology.

"Ordinary people need a chance to be connected with drama, and we provide this opportunity for them to fall in love with small theaters," Su said.

Su said theatergoers can see the subtle changes in the expressions of the actors, and will be moved by the plots.

"Before Apple and Orange Play Festival, my only experience with such events were recordings of dramas," said Zhao Hua, a clerk at Deutsche Bank.

The small theater emphasizes diversity, which is why this year's festival will feature workshops and youth activities.

"I expect people of all ages and social backgrounds to enter our theater," said Tang Xiaohui, president of Trojan House.

Trojan House has signed several actors and production teams, including directors and playwrights. Last year it staged several shows, some of which were produced by the theater itself.

About 10,000 people hold theater membership.

Tang said private and small theaters often encounter difficulty in sustaining itself. They have no choice but to explore other ways to make money, he said.

The festival, however, has seamlessly combined commercial and artistic elements. Next year, organizers plan to introduce foreign plays.

and actors will get a chance to realize their artistic potential.

The success of last year's festival has made Su believe that this year's can be even better. Last year, the Trojan Theater was approved to collaborate with Vantone Property Group to hold the Third Apple & Orange Play Festival. With theme of Spatialism,



Fabulous fabrics for the holiday season

By Annie Wei

Black Friday is upon us, and just because we live in a country that doesn't celebrate Thanksgiving shouldn't be an excuse not to get out and shop.

Here are some places to find beautiful fabrics to make your living room cozy.

Inexpensive pillowcases with lovely patterns

We were able to scout this store from its well-designed website on Taobao. It has six outlets all over the city, selling pillowcases and fabrics. Embroidered linen starts from 29 yuan. All cases come in three sizes: 30 by 45 centimeters, 50 by 50 centimeters and 60 by 60 centimeters.

Here are two showrooms on the east side of town.

Zilihangjian

Where: Room 115, B1, Phoenix Shopping Mall, Sanyuanqiao
Tel: 5638 3070

Where: 1/F, Beijing Guoji Huacai Zhongxin, 14 Huajiadi Bei Li, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6470 9817

Soft carpet made of yak down

The brand Shokay was founded by two young women – Maria So from Hong Kong and Carol Chyao from Taiwan – in 2007, aiming to design and sell stylish products made from yak down and help improve Tibetan herders' living conditions.

Yak down is a luxury fiber that cannot be mass-produced. Yaks mainly live in the mountainous Himalayan region. Each produces about 100 grams of fine downy fiber. The average fineness of down from an adult yak is 18 to 20 microns, while the length is 30 to 40 millimeters. Unlike wool, the scales of yak fiber are in a waved mosaic pattern, resulting in a smooth fiber that does not cause irritation.

The brand sources yak fiber directly from Tibetan herders, and in that way helps them earn a sustainable living while preserving their traditional lifestyle.

Shokay has a flagship store in Tianzifang, Shanghai. For Beijing customers, you can find the brand's large rug (starting from 4,000 yuan) at Wuhao Curated-shop.

Wuhao Curated-shop

Where: 35 Mao'er Hutong, Dongcheng District
Open: RSVP
Tel: 6400 5435

Quality silk fabric

This small store tucked under a staircase in Sanlitun Village has some nice stuff: silk pillowcases, cashmere and ceramic tableware. We like its Scandinavian fabric patterned with Chinese characters. The duck down pillow costs 75 yuan and pillowcases start from 398 yuan.

You can also find handmade felt gloves, slippers and bags in candy colors.

Chang and Biorck

Where: 2-19A, 1/F, Sanlitun Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 8400 2296



Pillowcases start from 29 yuan. Photos provided by southeast-corner.taobao.com



Shokay's yak down product
Photo provided by Shokay



Cozy felt gloves and slippers are available at Chang and Biorck.

Photos provided by Yue Kun

Pearson Longman English World

colour / coloured

- ✗ Most of all, she likes red colour.
- ✓ Most of all, she likes red.



Although Chinese uses 色 after each colour: 藍色, 紅色, etc, 'colour' is not used in English with the nouns or adjectives:

- ✗ His shirt was blue coloured.
- ✓ His shirt was blue.

also / too

- ✗ I also went there too.
- ✓ I also went there.
- ✓ I went there too.



'Also' and 'too' have the same meaning here and only one of them should be used.

Exercise

The following sentences are all ungrammatical. Choose which word is unnecessary and delete it.

1. Phil also entered the completion too.
2. a. Their car is easy to spot – it's pink colored.
b. I like the new uniform – I've always liked blue color.

Answers: 1. also / too 2. a. colored b. color



Book title

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误, 并附有非常生动活泼的插图, 深受青少年学生的青睐。

Hubei cuisine, flavorful and affordable

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* visited restaurants specializing in Hubei cuisine. The province has thousands of lakes, not to mention the Yangtze River, so it is famous for the ways it cooks freshwater fish.

Zaiheshang - private Hubei cuisine

The restaurant Zaiheshang, meaning "on the river," is praised by food critics and diners alike for its delicious food at wallet-friendly prices.

The owner, nicknamed Huahua, worked in the media before she quit her job to open a restaurant inspired by her hometown of Yichang, Hubei Province.

Beijingers are familiar with classic Hubei cuisine, featuring stir-fried meat, steamed meatballs in glutinous rice, hot and dry noodles, and spicy duck neck. But Yichang dishes are different.

Huahua said Yichang's use of chili peppers is unique. Ground fresh chili peppers are mixed with corn flour, ginger, garlic and onions and preserved in a pot for at least three weeks. The chilies can be fried with many things, and they open up one's stomach.

We recommended laojia hezhaguo (32 yuan), made of beans and vegetables. The preparation is complicated – the beans are soaked in water for four days, then ground, while soy milk and mashed beans are cooked with vegetables. When served, it's placed in a small hotpot



Stewed potatoes and beef, 38 yuan

Photo by Lu Di

and mixed with prepared sauce. It's sticky but full of bean flavors.

Nianzhugezi zhengrou (38 yuan), marinated pork belly wrapped in corn flour then steamed with pumpkin, has Sichuan characteristics. When ready, the meat tastes salty and fat, and the pumpkin is sweet and light, a nice combination.

Heshang latiguo (58 yuan), pig's feet hotpot, is a traditional and time-consuming dish. In Hubei, people spend several weeks preparing the feet – first marinated with salt for three to four days, then preserved in

a unventilated room with 10 days of fire. The pig's feet are supposed to attain a golden color. When cooked, they're simmered for several hours with potatoes.

Unlike most regional cuisine restaurants, Zaiheshang is more like a cafe, with its green floor and ceiling, white tables, chairs and walls.

Zaiheshang

Where: Room 3011, 2/F, Building C, Wanton Center, Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm; 5-9 pm
Tel: 5907 1916

Other Hubei restaurants

The famous Hubei restaurant Jiutouniao – "nine-headed birds" – opened in Beijing in 1995. Its success has enabled other investors to open a similar-named restaurant, Jiutouying.

The restaurant name comes from an old saying: "There are nine-headed birds in the sky and there are Hubei people on the earth," meaning Hubei people are cunning.

The most classic Hubei dishes can be found at both outlets, such as paigu lian'outang (48 yuan), spareribs and lotus soup, a common home dish that utilizes elements from Hubei's thousands of lakes. The soup should be creamy, as the spareribs are cooked for many hours, and the lotus roots should be soft instead of crunchy.

Qingzheng wuchangyu (seasonal price), steamed fish, tastes tender and light.

Other dishes include sanxian doupi (24 yuan), stuffed bean crepe with savory fillings of pork, shrimp and bamboo shoots.

Jiutouying

Where: 10-7 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8407 3084

Jiutouniao

Where: 77 Yongwai Dalelin Lu, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8726 3401

Where: 118 Zhongguancun Dong Lu, Haidian District

Open: 10 am -10 pm

Tel: 8212 3495

SHINING STARS FOR ALL REWARD

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